employment in the sector at 185.64 lakh during 2000-2001 was merely 4 percent higher than the employment level of 178.5 lakh during 1999-2000;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons therefore; and

(e) what efforts are being made to generate more employment in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The growth in exports of small scale sector has been 10.7% in 1999-2000 and 28.8% in 2000-2001 (revised estimates) at current prices.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The growth in exports is determined by expansion of global markets in a particular year whereas the growth in employment is dependent on the number of SSI units, nature of the product, the process adopted for production and several other domestic factors.

(e) The present policy of the Government is to impart greater vitality and growth impetus to the SSI sector to enable it to generate more employment. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, enhanced fiscal support, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management facilities, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications.

MoUs In the Field of Space

3942. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any MoUs have been entered into with various countries during the past 3 years in the field of space; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following MoUs and Agreements have been signed in the area of space in the past three years:

(i) Agreement for cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI), the Italian Space Agency, on May 31, 2000.

(ii) Cooperative Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) on January 9, 2002.

(iii) International Charter on Space and Major Disasters on January 9, 2002.

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the China National Space Administration (CNSA) on cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space on January 14, 2002.

(v) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on cooperaion in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes on February 1, 2002.

(vi) MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Agencia Espacial Brasiliera (AEB), the Brazilian Space Agency, on cooperation in the field of outer space on March 1, 2002.

(vii) MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Institute of Aeronautics & Space (Lembaga Penerbangan Dan Antariksa Nasional-LAPAN) of Indonesia on cooperation in the field of outer space research & development on April 3, 2002.